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UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND

Labour Administration Development
(THA/78/006)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	May 1979
Starting date of project activities:	October 1979
Planned completion date:	September 1981
To be executed by:	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Government implementing agency:	Department of Labour (Ministry of Interior)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$360 300
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. UNDP/ILO have been providing technical co-operation to the Thai Government in the field of labour administration since 1954. Such assistance has covered the fields of labour legislation, protection, occupational safety and health, and labour relations. To implement the basic labour laws which have been enacted in the country, however, the Thai Department of Labour still requires substantial strengthening in terms of its organizational structure and staff training. The present project focuses on four areas of labour administration, namely, employment services, labour law enforcement, labour relations and staff training. The major justification for assistance in these fields is the fact that a number of new labour protection laws have been enacted, but their implementation is behind schedule because of the institutional weakness of the Labour Department.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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II. Objectives and activities

2. The project will assist in the pursuit of the nation's policy for improving labour and employment conditions, enunciated in the fourth five-year development plan (1977-1981). Its immediate objectives are to strengthen and enhance the role of the Department of Labour in fulfilling its statutory functions in the fields of labour administration, manpower and employment, labour law enforcement, labour relations and staff training.

3. In qualitative terms, the project is intended to produce improved management methods, operational procedures and functional structures within the Labour Department. It is also expected to improve the labour information and communication system and strengthen the labour inspectorate, and to result in greater understanding by workers and employers of the necessities for consultation and co-operation, and consequently improve compliance with the statutory procedures for grievance and dispute settlement. In quantitative terms, 18 key officials of the Department of Labour will receive overseas training; two study tours will enable a further 24 labour officials to visit other Asian countries to exchange experience in their professional fields; pilot training courses will be developed and conducted for Labour Department staff; and training manuals and materials will be developed.

III. Inputs

4. Under the project the UNDP will provide for the services of an ILO labour administration adviser for twelve man-months. His over-all administrative and managerial skills will be augmented by eighteen man-months of specialized consultancies, as necessary; fifty-four man-months of fellowships and two observation/study tours; and equipment, including four audio-visual mobile demonstration vans.

5. To carry out the activities for which assistance is provided, the Government will provide matching funds equal to the subcontract component for production of training materials and documentation, to be implemented by a local national firm. In addition, the Government will finance counterpart staff, as well as provide adequate office space, training facilities and equipment.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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International Staff	128 800
Subcontracts	5 000
Fellowships	78 000
Equipment	146 000
Miscellaneous	2 500
	360 300

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $87,500 in kind.